



UNDERSTANDING CHILD SEXTING AND PREVENTING EXPLOITATION

INTRODUCTION

Child sexting, the sharing of self-generated sexual content, can lead to serious exploitation issues such as sextortion. Coordinated education is crucial to minimize harm.



DEFINITION:

Sexting involves children sharing self-generated sexual content via mobile phones or the internet.

MODERN LANDSCAPE:

The allure of delivering provocative images is embedded in today's social environment.

STATISTICS

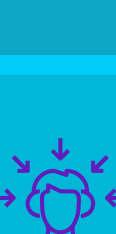


19.3%
of children have sent a sext.

14.5%
have forwarded a sext, posing legal and moral challenges.



WHY CHILDREN SEXT



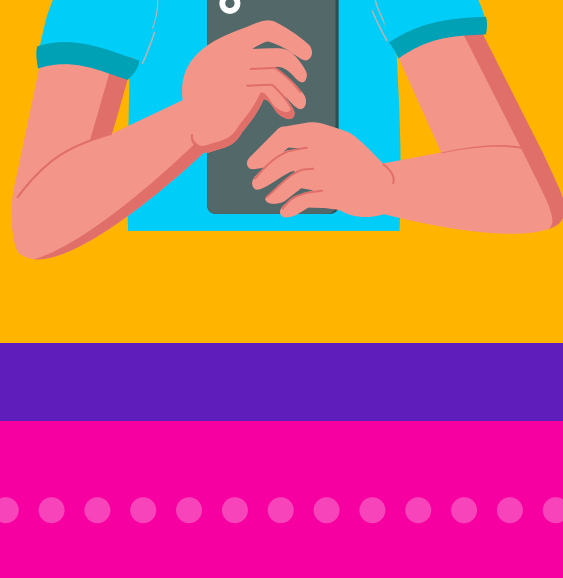
91% of American 14 year olds have smartphones (Common Sense Media)



Normalization and peer pressure contribute to children emulating sexting behaviors.



RISKS OF SEXTING



Consequences include depression, self-harm, and suicide.

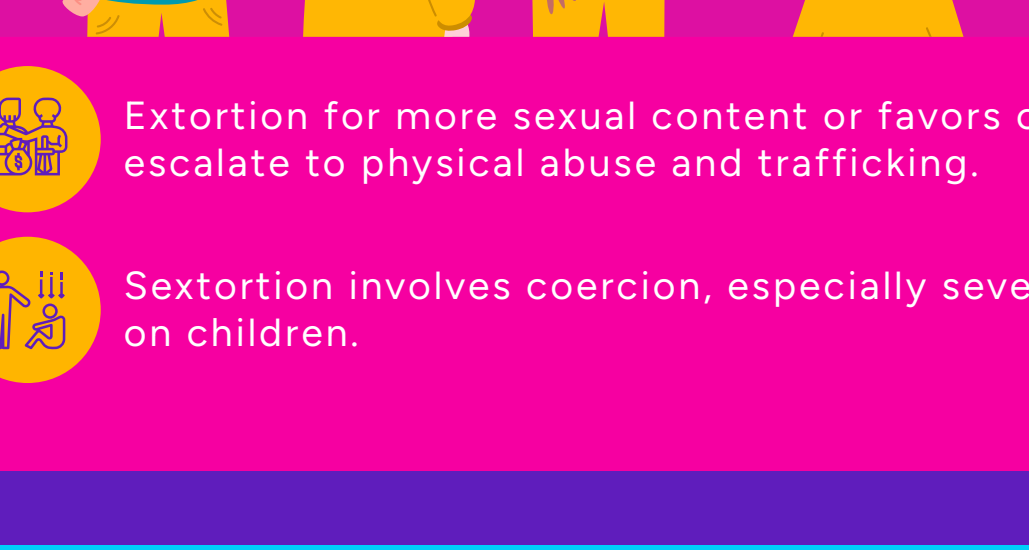


Spread of content to unintended audiences.



Bullying, sextortion, and sharing of child sexual abuse material (CSAM).

SEXTORTION AND MINORS



Extortion for more sexual content or favors can escalate to physical abuse and trafficking.



Sextortion involves coercion, especially severe on children.

WHY SEXTORTION WORKS ON MINORS:



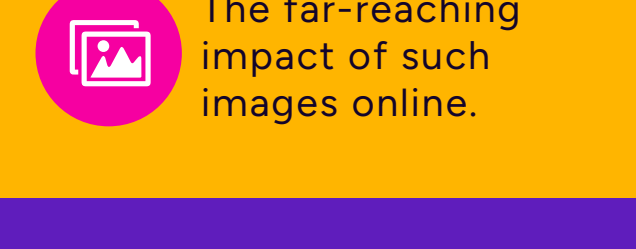
Peers often harass, creating a cycle of social credit through sexting.



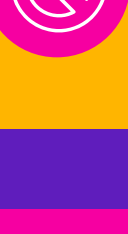
Minors may feel trapped within groups that support such behavior.

PARENTAL GUIDANCE:

Guardians should emphasize:



Inability to retract sexualized images.



The potential use of images for bullying or sextortion.



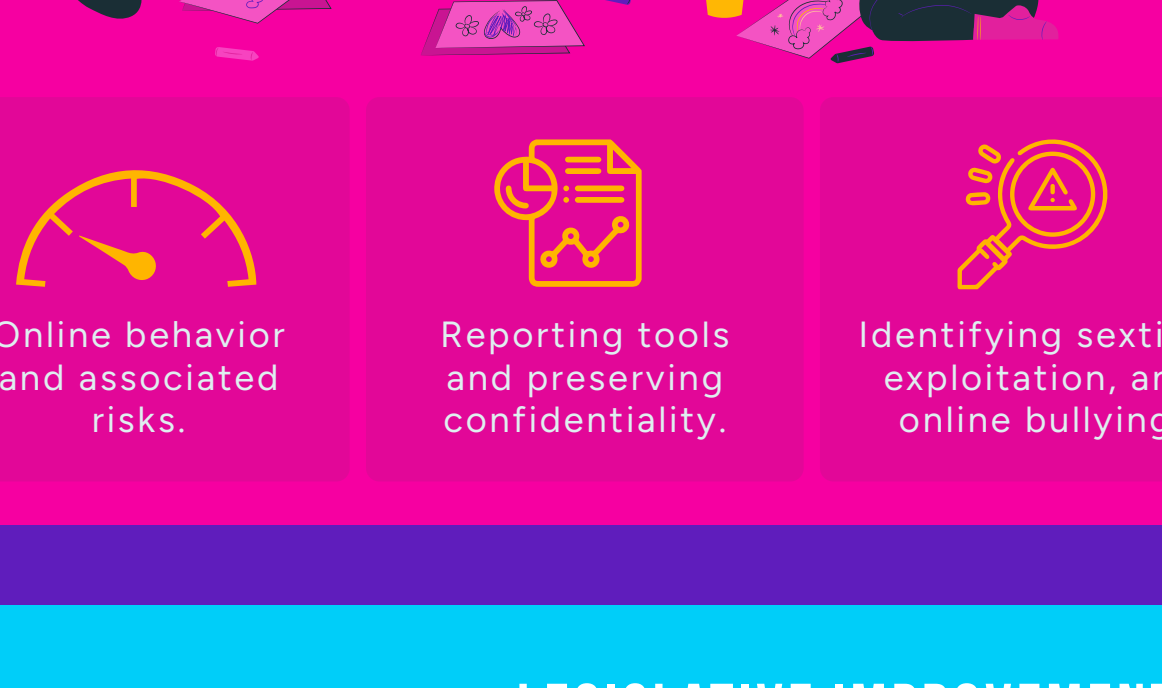
The far-reaching impact of such images online.



Encourage open communication. Avoid blaming children.

SEXTING EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS:

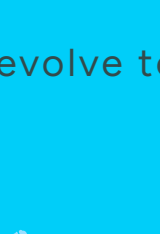
Comprehensive trafficking education should cover:



Online behavior and associated risks.



Reporting tools and preserving confidentiality.



Identifying sexting, exploitation, and online bullying.

LEGISLATIVE IMPROVEMENTS

Laws should evolve to:



Manage emotional fallout from traumatic incidents.



Provide easy access to confidential reporting and counseling.



Differentiate between child pornography and self-generated material



Treat child and adult offenders differently.

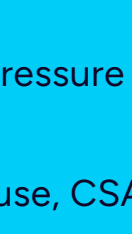
HUMAN TRAFFICKING FRONT'S INITIATIVES:



Age-appropriate curriculums for children.



Resources based on the latest research for online safety.



Training for professionals and parents.

CONCLUSION

Education, communication, clear legislation, and victim-focused resources are crucial to ensuring long-term safety for minors online.

KEY TAKEAWAYS



Normalization and peer pressure drive child sexting.



Risks include bullying, abuse, CSAM distribution, and sextortion.

Sextortion exploits victims through blackmail.

Human Trafficking Front provides up-to-date training for children, parents, and caretakers.

Minors who sext should be treated as victims, not perpetrators.

Governments should prioritize victim well-being.

Peer abuse at school amplifies the impact of leaked sexts.



Human Trafficking Front

Campaign Putting an End to the Online Exploitation of Children: Preventing Victimization and Strengthening Child Protection Systems

Human Trafficking Front is a non-profit organization with 501(c)3 status. All donations are 100% tax- deductible.

Thank you for helping us to fight impunity and protect victims.

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